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ABSTRACT: VIBROACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION: PARSING THE MUSICAL SYNTAX OF HEALING

Jennifer Schloming, MA, described this thesis—a portion of her requirements for a master of arts in liberal studies at Reed College—as “an investigation into music-medicine, in particular its conceptual underpinnings as well as the singular workings of the technology examined more closely in this paper—vibroacoustic technology,” i.e., vibrotactile therapy using a “soundtable” or “soundbed.” Schloming argues for a “broadened and redefined metaphysic of science.” She looks at “neuro-immunological field effects arising both outside and within the nervous system” and considers them as possible “sources of physical-emotional transformation and healing.” The author briefly defines the recent history and practice of music therapy and reviews research in the United States and Europe on the uses of vibroacoustic technology. She then presents the results of a three-month self-experiment using vibroacoustics and a justification of the experiment’s validity, concluding with a recommendation that Reed College consider acquiring vibroacoustic equipment for the use of stressed and anxious students. Schloming devotes several pages to a discussion of brain-wave states and the nature of binaural beats, including (by permission) Patricia Peters’s illustrations of the pathways through which binaural beats affect consciousness. HEMI-SYNC® JOURNAL articles and other binaural-beat studies are referenced in both the main text and bibliography, and the Institute’s assistance is acknowledged in the dedication.

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